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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR TAMPA-ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER FIRST HALF 2001

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area increased 1.2 percent, not seasonally adjusted, in the first half of 2001, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that from the first half of 2000 through the first half of 2001, the index increased 2.0 percent to a level of 148.0 (1982-84= 100).

The 1.2 percent increase is primarily due to higher costs for housing. Energy prices, which had risen 2.1 percent over the second half of last year, increased 2.8 percent over the first half of this year due to higher costs of electricity. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater rose 1.0 percent in the first half of 2001.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida, by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percent change from	
	2nd half 2000 to 1st half 2001	1st half 2000 to 1st half 2001
All items	1.2	2.0
Food and beverages	2.1	2.7
Housing	1.8	3.5
Apparel	-2.5	-10.4
Transportation	0.4	1.1
Medical care	1.7	4.2
Recreation 1/	1.2	1.0
Education and communication 1/	1.2	0.7
Other goods and services	0.7	4.7

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Among the major index groups, the food and beverages index advanced 2.1 percent over the first half of the year. Costs for food at home increased 1.5 percent compared to a 1.9 percent increase in costs for food away from home. The index for alcoholic beverages rose 2.9 percent.

After increasing 1.7 percent in the second half of last year, housing costs increased 1.8 percent in the first half of 2001, reflecting the relative importance of shelter costs. Costs for shelter rose 2.3 percent in the first half of the year, while costs for household fuels and utilities rose 4.0 percent. The index for household furnishings and operations decreased 0.2 percent. Since the first half of 2000, the housing index has risen 3.5 percent.

Costs for apparel declined 2.5 percent in the first half of 2001. Following a decrease of 8.2 percent in the last half of 2000, costs for apparel are down by 10.4 percent from the first half of 2000.

The transportation index increased 0.4 percent due to moderating gasoline increases. Gasoline prices, which had risen 18.9 percent from the second half of 1999 to the second half 2000, recorded a 0.1 percent increase in the first half of 2001. Since the first half of 2000, costs for transportation are up 1.1 percent.

Other major index groups reported include the medical care index, which rose 1.7 percent over the half. Since the first half of 2000, the index has risen 4.2 percent. Costs for recreation increased 1.2 percent in the half year, the first half-year increase since the second half of 1998. Since the first half of 2000, the index has increased 1.0 percent. The education and communication index increased 1.2 percent after decreasing 0.5 percent in the previous pricing period. Costs for other goods and services increased 0.7 percent in first half and have risen 4.7 percent since the first half of 2000.

Technical Notes

In each revision, the CPI geographic sample is selected to be representative of the current demographics of the United States. The 1998 revision utilizes the 1990 Census of population. The CPI developed an updated area sample design, decided on new local area indexes and changed the frequency of publication for local area indexes in order to better reflect these new demographics.

The BLS continues to publish separate indexes for the four Census regions of the United States. However, beginning in 1998, there are only two area size classes for metropolitan areas, instead of the former three: Size A - areas with a population greater than 1.5 million; and Size B/C - areas of 50,000 to 1.5 million population. This cutoff of 1.5 million in population reflects a rise from the former cutoff of 1.2 million and is important since cities in size class A are those for which the Bureau publishes city level indexes. The B/C size class is a combination of the old Size B and Size C metropolitan areas. In addition to the two metropolitan area size indexes for each region, separate Size D indexes for areas of less than 50,000 continue to be published for both the Midwest and the South. Separate indexes for Northeast and West urban nonmetropolitan areas were discontinued in 1987.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at <http://www.bls.gov>. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at <http://www.bls.gov/ro4news.htm>. Our CPI homepage (<http://www.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>) has articles on the 1998 CPI Revision from the December 1996 *Monthly Labor Review*. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. Table 1 for the CPI-U, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida, may be found under Code 9125. Data in this table are updated monthly and are available on the day of release. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305.

Change in the Consumer Price Index Formula

On April 16, 1998, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced its decision to use a new formula for calculating the basic components of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This change became effective with data for January 1999.

The new formula, the geometric mean estimator, is used in index categories that comprise approximately 61 percent of total consumer spending represented by the CPI-U. The remaining index categories, which are shown in the table below, will continue to be calculated as they have been. Based upon BLS research, it is expected that new formula will reduce the annual rate of increase in the CPI by approximately 0.2 percentage point per year.

The geometric mean estimator was introduced in both the CPI-U and the CPI-W effective with data for January 1999, in accord with the past practice of introducing methodological changes at the beginning of a calendar year. BLS will continue to publish "overlap" CPI-U and CPI-W series using the current calculation method for the first six months of 1999. These indexes will not be published regularly for months subsequent to June 1999, but will be available upon request. Additional information on this change was published in the April 1998 CPI Detailed Report and is available on the Internet (<http://www.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>).

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida (1987=100) Not seasonally adjusted

Group	All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
	Index 1st half 2001	Percent change to 1st half 2001 from		Index 1st half 2001	Percent change to 1st half 2001 from	
		1st half 2000 : 2nd half 2000			1st half 2000 : 2nd half 2000	
All items	148.0	2.0	1.2	146.8	2.2	1.2
Food and beverages	145.7	2.7	2.1	146.6	2.7	2.0
Food	144.7	2.7	2.0	145.1	2.5	1.9
Food at home	145.4	3.3	1.5	146.4	3.2	1.5
Food away from home	142.4	2.1	1.9	142.3	2.1	1.8
Alcoholic beverages	150.5	2.8	2.9	152.4	4.4	4.5
Housing	143.0	3.5	1.8	142.2	3.8	1.6
Shelter	154.7	3.4	2.3	153.8	3.8	2.0
Rent of primary residence	149.4	3.9	1.8	149.4	3.9	1.8
Owners' equivalent rent	159.2	3.9	1.9	159.2	3.9	1.9
Fuel and utilities	131.1	7.2	4.0	129.6	6.9	3.8
Fuels	121.8	8.0	5.5	121.0	7.6	5.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	121.0	7.9	5.6	120.7	7.6	5.3
Electricity	117.5	6.5	4.6	117.5	6.5	4.6
Utility natural gas service	262.5	43.3	27.0	262.5	43.3	27.0
Household furnishings and operation	120.0	1.9	-0.2	116.9	1.4	-0.4
Apparel	148.3	-10.4	-2.5	135.1	-10.6	-2.1
Transportation	135.0	1.1	0.4	136.3	1.4	0.4
Private transportation	136.8	1.9	0.7	137.9	2.0	0.7
Motor fuel	156.5	2.2	0.2	156.5	2.2	0.2
Gasoline (All types)	153.8	2.1	0.1	153.8	2.1	0.1
Regular unleaded 1/	151.6	2.4	0.6	151.6	2.4	0.6
Midgrade unleaded 1/ 2/	134.7	2.7	0.2	134.7	2.7	0.2
Premium unleaded 1/	154.2	1.2	-0.9	154.2	1.2	-0.9
Medical care	204.8	4.2	1.7	206.0	3.8	1.5
Recreation 3/	100.9	1.0	1.2	100.3	0.8	1.3
Education and Communication 3	102.6	0.7	1.2	105.4	0.3	1.4
Other goods and services	204.3	4.7	0.7	206.5	5.6	0.7
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	136.4	0.7	0.7	138.0	1.0	0.7
Commodities less food and beverages	130.7	-0.5	-0.4	132.0	-0.2	-0.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	158.0	-0.6	-0.6	155.6	-0.5	-0.6
Durables	100.2	-0.4	0.1	106.6	0.2	0.4
Services	158.9	3.0	1.7	155.9	3.2	1.7
All items less medical care	144.4	1.8	1.2	143.8	2.1	1.3
All items less shelter	145.9	1.6	1.0	144.6	1.6	1.1
Commodities less food	132.3	-0.3	-0.2	134.4	-0.1	-0.1
Nondurables	151.2	1.1	0.8	150.8	1.1	0.8
Nondurables less food	157.4	-0.3	-0.3	156.7	-0.2	-0.3
Energy	137.3	5.0	2.8	137.0	4.8	2.7
All items less energy	148.9	1.9	1.2	147.5	2.0	1.2
All items less food and energy	149.7	1.7	1.0	148.0	1.9	1.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar: 1987=\$1.00	\$.676	-	-	\$.681	-	-

1/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

2/ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

3/ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Users should be aware that CPI data were revised to correct an error in the residential rent and owner's equivalent rent components. Indexes were revised for both the CPI-U and CPI-W for the period First half 2000.

For more information, call (404) 331-3415.